

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 10-25 are pending in the present Application. Claims 18-25 stand allowed, Claims 1-6 and 8-9 have been canceled, and Claim 7 has been amended, leaving Claims 7 and 10-25 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment. The Specification has been amended as discussed below. No new matter has been introduced by way of amendment. For example, support for the amendment to Claim 7 with respect to fiber length of the structural component fibers can be found on lines 2-5 of page 12.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

First Objection to the Specification

The specification is objected to because the status of provisional and non-provisional patent applications referred to must be updated. Specifically, the Examiner notes that on page 3 (lines 7-8) provisional Application 60/055,590 has become U.S. Patent No. 6,039,569. Also noted by the Examiner, on page 15 (line 23), U.S. Applications 08/907,177 and 09/055,590 have been abandoned and matured into U.S. Patent 6,011,184, respectively.

The text on page 3, lines 7-8, has been amended to update the status of the provisional application.

The text on page 15 has been amended to update the status of U.S. Applications 08/907,177 and 09/055,590. Applicants point out that the Examiner is correct in stating that U.S. Application 09/055,590 has matured into U.S. Patent No. 6,011,184, however this reference was not cited in the instant Application. U.S. Application 09/059,492 was cited and not 09/055,590. Applicants respectfully point out that U.S. Application 09/059,492 has been abandoned as of November 30, 1999, and the text on page 15 has been amended to reflect this.

As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection.

Second Objection to the Specification

The Specification has been objected to as failing to provide antecedent basis for claimed subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner notes that “woven” fibers as in Claims 11 and 21 cannot be found in the Specification. Additionally, the Examiner has pointed out that the pontic having the same strain to failure as the structural component, as claimed in Claims 12 and 22, is missing from the Specification.

The text on page 12 beginning at line 9 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for “woven” fibers.

With respect to the pontic having the same strain to failure as the structural component, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner’s attention to page 15 (lines 4-5), which states: “The soft PFC has a strain to failure value about equal to or higher than the FRC component.” It should therefore be evident that proper support for this claimed feature is present in the Specification as filed and, consequently, no correction is necessary.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner objects to “greater than about”.

Claim 7 has been amended to remove the term “about” and, as such, Applicants request the rejection to Claim 7 be withdrawn.

Double Patenting

Claims 16 and 17 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 24-31 of U.S.

Patent No. 6,039,569. Claims 7-15 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-14 and 24-25 of U.S. Patent No. 6,186,790 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,039,569. Claims 7-15 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,200,136.

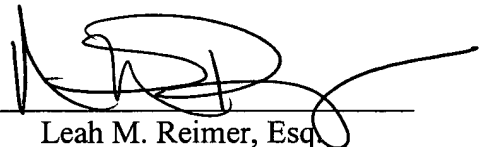
Applicants hereby submit, with this Amendment, an executed Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) to overcome the rejection.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance is requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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